

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Claims 1-10 were pending prior to the Office Action. Claims 11 and 12 have been added through this Reply. Therefore, claims 1-12 are pending. Claims 1, 7, 9, and 10 are independent.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants appreciate that the Examiner has indicated claims 7, 8 and 10 are allowable and that claim 4 include allowable subject matter.

§ 102 REJECTION – UCHINO

Claims 1, 2, 6 and 9 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Uchino et al. (USP 6,813,040). *See Office Action, item 2.* Applicants respectfully traverse.

It is noted that the U.S. filing date of Uchino is September 9, 1999 which postdates the present application's priority date of August 13, 1999. A Certified Translation of the priority document for the present application is submitted herewith to thereby perfect the claim of priority. Thus, Uchino does not qualify as a valid prior art rendering all rejections based on Uchino invalid.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Attached hereto is one (1) sheet of corrected formal drawings that comply with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.84 and a related drawing sheet with proposed drawing changes red marked. The corrected formal drawings merely rectifies incorrect spellings in Figure 11. Applicants respectfully request that the corrected formal drawings be approved and made a part of the record of the above-identified application.

Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1, 2, 6 and 9 based on Uchino be withdrawn.

§ 103 REJECTION – UCHINO, KONISHI

Claims 5 and 7 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Uchino in view of Konishi et al. (USP 5,420,635). *See Office Action item 4.* Applicants respectfully traverse.

As noted above, Uchino has been removed as prior art. Therefore, the rejection of claims 5 and 7 based on Uchino and Konishi is not valid.

Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 5 and 7 based on Uchino and Konishi be withdrawn.

§ 103 REJECTION – UCHINO, TANIZOE

Claims 3 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Uchino in view of Tanizoe et al. (USP 6,753,917). *See Office Action item 4.* Applicants respectfully traverse.

As noted above, Uchino has been removed as prior art. Therefore, the rejection of claim 3 based on Uchino and Tanizoe is not valid.

Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 3 based on Uchino and Tanizoe be withdrawn.

NEW CLAIMS

Claims 11 and 12 have been added through this Reply. All new claims are believed to be distinguishable over the cited references, individually or in any combination. Applicants respectfully request that the new claims be allowed.

CONCLUSION

All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Hyung Sohn (Reg. No. 44,346), to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants respectfully petition for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application, and the required fee is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit

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Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH &, BIRCH, LLP

By: _____


Michael R. Cammarata

Reg. No. 39,491

MRC/^{HNS}HNS/jm

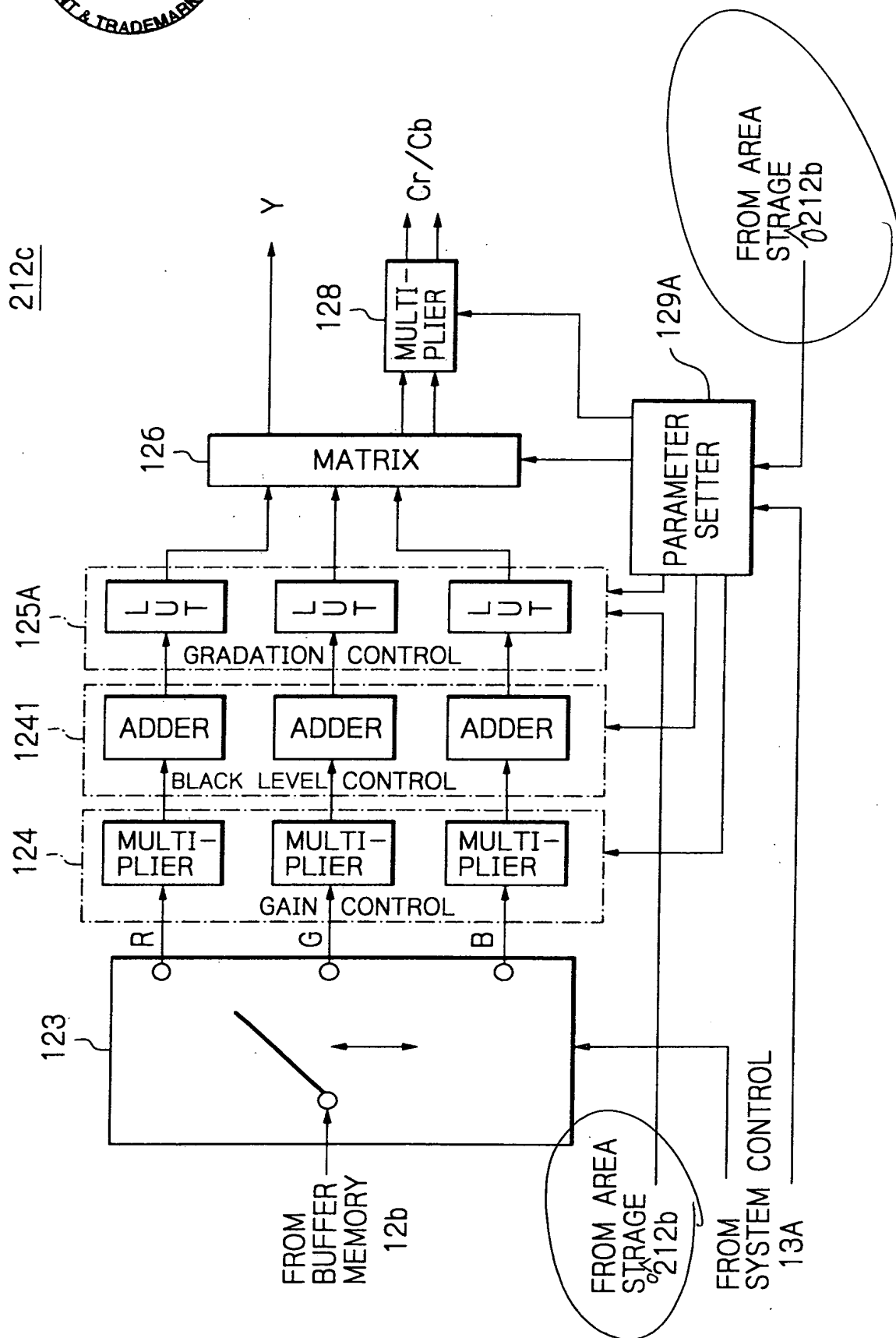
P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, VA 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attachment(s):

Fig. 11



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